

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESB 6158

C 544 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Delaying the implementation of the family leave insurance program.

Sponsors: Senators Keiser, Brown, Prentice and Tom.

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background: The Family Leave Insurance Program was enacted in 2007 to provide a partial wage replacement program for individuals who are unable to perform their regular or customary work because they are on family leave. The program is to begin paying \$250 per week for up to five weeks starting October 1, 2009, to eligible individuals. To be eligible the individual must work at least 680 hours in employment covered by unemployment compensation.

The program also establishes the Family Leave Insurance Account and provides the Director of Labor and Industries (L&I) authority to lend funds from the Supplemental Pension Fund to the Family Leave Insurance Account. The 2007-09 budget provides L&I \$18 million in appropriation authority from the Family Leave Insurance Account for initial administrative expenses.

Summary: Implementation of the Family Leave Insurance Program is delayed for three years. Benefits are payable beginning October 1, 2012 (instead of October 1, 2009). Annual reports must be submitted to the Legislature beginning September 1, 2013 (instead of September 1, 2010).

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 29 14

House 61 34

Effective: July 26, 2009

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